

**MEDIA RELEASE
COMMENCEMENT OF INTERCENSAL DEMOGRAPHIC & LABOR FORCE
SURVEY
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For immediate release

The Statistician General of the Namibia Statistics Agency, Mr. Alex Shimuafeni, on the 12th of October announced the commencement of the Intercensal Demographic and Labour Force Survey for 2016.

The survey, which is aimed at collecting information on socio-demographic characteristics of the population and Labour force, captures information on socio-economic characteristics of the population. The surveys, Intercensal Demographic & Labour Force, will run concurrently from the 17th of October up to the 11th of November 2016.

At a joint press conference, that included the Namibian Police, Councilors from Windhoek West and East as well as staff from the Office of the Governor of the Khomas Region, the Statistician-General took the time out to announce that they have decided to include law enforcement agencies to highlight the fact that the Statistics Act, Section 43, 1(b) protects the Namibia Statistics Agency from refusals which includes a penalty. Often we receive refusals from households that do not want to participate.

We are saying we do not want to enforce the Act right now but there will come a point when we will be left with no choice but to effect the act" the Statistician General said. The functions of the police during surveys is twofold. The first one is to ensure that this whole exercise is conducted in a peaceful and safe environment. Essentially this means that households should feel safe and sound when our enumerators conduct this survey. The second part is to ensure that households are aware that they are obliged to comply as this is a national exercise. All enumerators will be identifiable through identification cards, NSA shirts and the NSA vehicles that they will be traveling in. The presence of the police will also ensure that the survey is authentic.

The NSA also invited the two councilors from two Windhoek constituencies, Windhoek East and West. They have been chosen as many refusals are observed in their constituencies and they need to be aware of this so as to inform them on the importance of informing the inhabitants from their constituencies to comply. It is important to understand that refusals have an effect on data quality. We would all agree that everyone wants and needs reliable, timely and accurate statistics. However, to ensure that these are available means that information needs to be provided, and accurately for that matter. It is hence clear that data that is not accurate cannot be reliable but misleading. We ought to guard against such possibilities as it is neither good for the Namibia Statistics Agency nor for the nation.

Refusals are also a costly exercise since this means that enumerators need to go back to those Households.

Development is a process that needs to be guided and based on correct facts and figures. It is the statistics collected by the Namibia Statistics Agency which inform these development process and also indicate what we have achieved and what not. The data will essentially be used by policy makers, academia, business persons and entities as well the nation at large. The Statistics Act mandates the NSA to collect data and also requires it to treat the data confidential. All statisticians and enumerators involved are bound by an oath of secrecy which, if violated, is prosecutable by law.

The survey will take place across the country in all 14 regions and also serve as a pilot for the 2021 Population and Housing Census

Released by



ALEX SHIMUAFENI
STATISTICIAN-GENERAL

